



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 12, 2015

Ms. Vallie Ferraraccio  
Director – Division of Purchasing  
95 Franklin Street – 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Certificate of Emergency – Elma Pumping Station Force Main Tapping Valve and Sleeve Installation**

Dear Ms. Ferraraccio:

Pursuant to the attached memorandum dated October 12, 2015 from Deputy Commissioner Joseph Fiegl, P.E. and pursuant to the emergency issues outlined in the Chief Treatment Plant Supervisor's memorandum, I hereby declare a public emergency as authorized under Erie County Administrative Code, Section 3.07 (b). I direct you to suspend any and all purchasing requirements as stated under Section 3.07 (a) of the Erie County Administrative Code as they relate to the tapping valve and sleeve installation for the Elma Pumping Station Force Main. Furthermore, I hereby authorize you to forego formal competitive bidding requirements to issue a purchase order to S.B.I. Tapping, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 for the subject project.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Commissioner Fiegl.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MP:JF  
Encl.

cc: T. Dearing  
County Attorney  
Comptroller's Office  
J. Fiegl

Item  
(12)



**COUNTY OF ERIE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING  
DIVISION OF SEWERAGE MANAGEMENT  
\*\* MEMORANDUM \*\***

MARK C. POLONCARZ, ESQ.  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
THOMAS J. BEARING  
COMMISSIONER  
JOSEPH L. FIEGL, P.E.  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

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**FROM:** Joseph L. Fiegl, P.E. – Deputy Commissioner *JLF*  
**TO:** Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq. – County Executive  
**DATE:** October 12, 2015  
**RE:** Certificate of Emergency: Elma Pumping Station Force Main  
Tapping Valve and Sleeve Installation

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I am requesting that you declare a public emergency as authorized under Erie County Administrative Code, Section 3.07 (b) and authorize the Purchasing Director to issue a purchase order, without competitive bidding, to S.B.I. Tapping, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$8,000. The Erie County Sewer District No. 3 operating budget would be used to fund this work. Please see the following information regarding the requested emergency repairs:

**Location:** Elma Pumping Station Force Main (located at 1150 Maple Road, Elma, NY 14059).

**Description of Emergency:** during normal operational activities, it was identified that a valve on the Elma Pumping Station Force Main was stuck in the open position. This valve is critical to allow for force main maintenance to be performed. To be able to replace the valve while the force main is operational, a tapping valve and sleeve are required.

**Reason why this is an emergency and action taken:** the Elma Pumping Station and force main service several commercial/industrial customers, including Steuben Foods. Specifically, Steuben Foods is the largest customer connected to the infrastructure and its plant operates around the clock without shutdown of production. Because this pumping station and force main is always active, a new tapping valve and sleeve is required to isolate the inoperable valve and replace it. The inoperable valve is critical to allow for critical force main maintenance to occur. Without this force main maintenance, pressures will continue to rise with the potential for decreased pumping capacity and increased probability of force main breaks. Note that only those repairs that are critical would be completed through a certificate of emergency. County in-house staff will perform the excavation necessary to expose the force main for the tapping valve and sleeve and the physical replacement of the inoperable valve.

**Contact:**

- ☐ The County Executive was not contacted because of the nature of the emergency.
- ☐ Tried to contact the County Executive but was unable to do so.
- X The following individuals were contacted:
  - ☐ County Executive
  - ☐ Deputy County Executive
  - X Chief of Staff

**Encl.**

**Cc:** V. Ferraraccio – Purchasing  
G. Absalom  
J. Carr/D. Millar/M. Salah/R. Ferber/7.2.3 Emergency Declaration

**COUNTY OF ERIE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING  
DIVISION OF SEWERAGE MANAGEMENT  
\*\* MEMORANDUM \*\***

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**TO:** Joseph L. Fiegl, P.E. – Deputy Commissioner  
**FROM:** Glenn H. Absolom Jr. – Chief Treatment Plant Supervisor  
**DATE:** October 12, 2015  
**RE:** Emergency – Elma Pumping Station Force Main

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On October 7, 2015, Erie County Sewer District No. 3 staff mobilized to the Elma Pumping Station to perform a cleaning of the force main by shooting a pig through the line. This was necessary because pressures in the line were reaching unacceptable high levels. During the process of attempting to perform this maintenance on the force main, it was found that force main isolation valve was stuck in the open position. After repeated attempts, the valve could not be closed. The valve had successfully operated less than three weeks prior to this attempt when the line was last cleaned. It is surmised that there is an obstruction that is not allowing the valve to close completely.

As you know, this pumping station services Steuben Foods, which operates around the clock at a high volume of wastewater. We were in contact with Steuben Foods to ascertain if there were any plant shutdowns scheduled in the near future. As there are none, we will have to do this repair "live".

Mr. Brown, Mr. Canestrari, Mr. Kaminski, and I sat down the afternoon of October 8, 2015 and went through possible scenarios to repair this inoperable valve. A game plan has been developed, whereby a tapping valve and sleeve is installed upstream that will allow for isolation of the broken valve. We discussed this plan by Kandey Company, which is a construction company that does this type of work routinely, especially for the ECWA, and they said our plan was doable. They suggested we reach out to S.B.I. Tapping, Inc., who had provided them the lowest pricing in the past. Attached is their quote, which appears to be very reasonable considering the effort required.

Our staff will perform all other work associated with this repair to minimize our costs. We have a new valve in stock that will be used and our crew will perform the necessary excavation for the valve installation. We will also swap the valve out ourselves.

As you know, "pigging" of this force main is critical maintenance that is necessary to remove buildup on the interior of the piping and potentially address air pockets, if any. We monitored the situation over the weekend and the pressure continues to rise in the force main. Hence I recommend completing these repairs in the most expeditious manner. Otherwise, the conveyance capacity of the Elma Pumping Station will be adversely affected and the possibility of a force main break or leak will increase.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Encl.

Cc: K. Kaminski  
S. Canestrari  
K. Brown  
B. Gretka



110 NEVEL HOLLOW ROAD  
HUNLOCK CREEK, PA 18621  
Phone: (570) 256-3740

## Estimate

DATE	ESTIMATE NO.
10/9/2015	52

NAME / ADDRESS
Erie County Sewer

PROJECT

DESCRIPTION	QTY	AMOUNT	TOTAL
8"x6" Tapping Valve and sleeve Installed 8" Line Stop Installed on sewer line		7,500.00	7,500.00
TOTAL			\$7,500.00

Acceptance Signature \_\_\_\_\_